

2024 WYO HELP Community Action Plan

The following describes the anticipated programs and services for the 2024 Fiscal year which runs from October 2023 - September 2024.

Overview

Goshen HELP DBA WYO HELP is a community action agency based in Torrington Wyoming. We are currently serving 6 Wyoming Counties consisting of Carbon, Crook, Goshen, Niobrara, Washakie, and Weston Counties. As a community action agency our primary focus is addressing immediate needs for people living in those counties through stabilization services, but also coordinating efforts within each county to address and identify the primary causes of poverty and then working together to address those causes. We use a variety of funding to achieve those goals.

- Our mission is to improve the quality of life for people in need by empowering them to become more self sufficient.
- Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of home, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.

Assessment

Using a combination of community needs assessments from 2020 & 2021 along with data from Feeding America we have determined the following to be our greatest needs.

- Food Assistance
- Employment Opportunities
- Healthcare Assistance
- Housing Assistance

Planning

This summer and into the next fiscal year, WYO HELP will be hosting community meetings to discuss how to best address those top needs. It is our desire to partner with the communities to develop an overall plan that can be implemented across multiple agencies and non-profits wherever possible. In the interim we will be implementing temporary programs to help provide some stabilization programs until definite plans can be created. We are also aware of a number of potential programs that may become available either from the state or the federal government which will impact the planning process.

Implementation

Full implementation may not happen until 2025 or 2026 after each county has had an opportunity to participate in creating a plan with new updated community needs assessments that will be conducted in 2024. Until this time, WYO HELP is using a combination of resources to provide as many services as possible. Some of the resources we hope to provide will depend on donations from within the county or community. The following are services that we will be offering in the 2024 fiscal year. It is our hope to move towards being able to use food pantries as a point of entry for services or referrals.

- **Food Distribution**

- Carbon County - We will open a food pantry in Rawlins in July 2023. We have enough grant funds to support it through September 2023. Beginning in October 2023 we will require local donations to support it unless additional grant funds are rewarded. We will also be providing access to food gift cards to local grocery stores. The pantry is a collaborative effort between WYO HELP and existing pantries.
- Crook County - We will provide access to food gift cards to local grocery stores and hope to partner with existing food pantries.
- Goshen County - We will continue to provide our existing food pantry which is dependent upon donations and will also have food gift cards available.
- Niobrara County - We will have food gift cards available and hope to support the existing food pantry at the Senior Center.
- Washakie County - We will have food gift cards available and hope to coordinate with the existing food pantry.
- Weston County - We hope to turn our office into a distribution center for the TEFAP food program and will have food cards available. We hope to coordinate with the existing food pantry.

- **Employment Opportunities**

- We do not have the capacity or resources to address employment opportunities currently.

- **Healthcare Assistance**

- All Counties - We will provide financial assistance for hearing, vision aids, over the counter medications, clothing, diapers, formula, baby food, and shoes as funding allows.
- Carbon & Goshen Counties - Through a partnership with The Salvation Army we will provide financial assistance for prescriptions and medical payments as funding allows.

- **Housing Assistance**

- Carbon & Goshen Counties - Through a partnership with The Salvation Army we will provide financial assistance for minor home repairs, rent & utility payments as funding allows.
- All Counties - Through a partnership with Energy Share we will provide funding for utility payments as funding allows and during the winter season while their funding season is open.

- **Youth Services**

- Niobrara County - We will operate a youth alternatives program under the authorization of the county juvenile services board. This will provide a part time

Program Expenses	\$167,539	\$22,223	\$140,254	\$51,072	\$35,531	\$35,830	\$452,448
Admin Expenses	\$27,909	\$7,747	\$28,541	\$7,760	\$14,101	\$10,854	\$96,912
Fundraising Expenses	\$500		\$500	\$500			\$1,500
Total Expenses	\$195,948	\$29,969	\$169,295	\$59,332	\$49,632	\$46,684	\$550,859
Net Income	\$0.31	\$30.16	\$111.14	\$41.08	\$54.91	\$42.26	\$279.86
Leverage Funds Needed to support grants	\$32,658	\$4,995	\$28,215	\$9,889	\$8,272	\$7,780	\$91,810

Each county has revenue sources either from CSBG, a CDC Disparities Grant, a CJSB grant, or local donation support. We are working to secure additional grants which may increase the services we can provide in each county, but they are not secured at this time.

Each county contributes to overall costs on a basis that is equal to the revenue they bring in and that initiates a corresponding cost. Program costs are a mixture of grant in aid funds spent in support of clients and staff costs required to provide services.

Please note that our projected income at this time is substantially less than the last 2 years because pandemic related programs will have ended. This has required a reduction in staff and offices. We are using our temporary programs to create a bridge between past programs and new programs that we anticipate putting into place.

Counties should be on alert that it is possible that there will be significantly less resources available to address poverty until efforts by the Governor’s office are implemented.

Achievement of Results & Evaluation

Each service is given a target or a goal and then measured to see if we met our objectives regarding what that service was meant to achieve. We call the achievements National Progress Indicators. The decisions we make from year to year about what programs or services to offer will be based on the success of those specific services.

Summary

This will be a transition year for us as we move from pandemic related resources and programs back to a more normal community led approach. To best serve our counties we are focusing on developing our capacity to serve multiple grants and programs so that as funding and resources become available as solutions to an identified need we are prepared to act. Presently there is substantial funding in many areas, but we are not prepared to manage many of those funding sources. In 2024, we will provide as many resources as we can, seek out additional funding on a continuous basis, and develop our agencies capacity to manage the opportunities that fit our mission and the needs of our counties.